

We claim:

1. A method use by a wireless device in a wireless communications environment, the method comprising the steps of:
  - associating with a current access point;
  - ascertaining whether the wireless device should attempt to associate with another access point;
  - requesting association with the another access point if it is ascertained that the wireless device should attempt to associate with said access point.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - automatically collecting information about other access points.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of ascertaining ascertains that the wireless device should attempt to associate with another access point if the access point is closer than the current access point.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of ascertaining ascertains that the access point is closer than the current access point by:
  - calculating a first biased distance between the wireless device and the current access point based on “x” samples;
  - calculating a second biased distance between the wireless device and the access point operating on said another channel based on “y” samples where “y” is less than “x”;

Ascertaining that the access point operating on said another channel is closer than the current access point if the second biased distance is less than the first biased distance.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of requesting association requests association by sending a message to the access point.